# FIRE AND ICE

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## Chapter III:
## Cry Havoc

THE STORY SO FAR

PRINCE KALEDAN OF THE ICE KINGDOM IS DEAD, MURDERED BY HIS JEALOUS BROTHER NEKRON TO GAIN HIS POWER. FALSELY LED TO BELIEVE THE ASSASSIN WAS AN AGENT FROM THE REALM OF FIRE, THE SORCERESS JULIANA HAS LAUNCHED A REPRISAL CAMPAIGN OF ALL OUT TERROR AGAINST THE SOUTH.


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SPECIAL THANKS TO
SARA FRAZETTA & JOE WEBER

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**FIRE AND ICE ™, VOLUME 1, ISSUE #3.** First printing. Published by Dynamite Entertainment, 113 Gaither Dr., STE 205, Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054.


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IT'S CALLED TOSOPDAHOWA BY ITS INHABITANTS, WHICH LITERALLY TRANSLATES AS: LAND OF FIRE AND ICE.

KALUFA!

KALU HAWA JO NE!

NOW IT'S ALSO RAHTHOWA, A WORLD OF WAR.

YES! KILL THEM WITHOUT MERCY!

LEAVE NO MAN, WOMAN, OR CHILD ALIVE!

DESPITE OUR SURPRISE, THESE BARBARIAN SCUM ARE PUTTING UP A GOOD FIGHT!

RELEASE THE MONSTERS!

HAWO DAFA!

IKUN TOPER GAD KAS O TUPA GAD KE!

RALLY TO ME!

RALLY TO ME!

NO!

IT'S HOPELESS!

# CRY HAVOC

BILL WILLINGHAM
LEONARDO MANCO
JEFF ECKLEBERRY
MATT IDELSON

SPECIAL THANKS TO SARA FRAZETTA AND JOE WEBER

ENEMY BELOW.

LET'S TAKE THEM.

HURRAH!

ABOUT TIME WE GOT INTO THIS FIGHT!

STANDARD STRAFING FORMATION.

FIRE LANCES FIRST.

CONCENTRATE ON THE BIGGER TARGETS.

FOR KING JAROL!

AND VICTORY!

ELSEWHERE AT THAT MOMENT...

STAND ASIDE!

I BRING DISPATCHES TO MY MOTHER.

DOESN'T MATTER.

THE QUEEN IS NOT TO BE DISTURBED.

BUT SHE'S BEEN LOCKED UP IN THERE FOR DAYS, AND I CARRY VITAL NEWS OF THE RAIDS.

SO?

HER ORDERS WERE ADAMANT.

WHAT COULD SHE BE DOING IN THERE?

YOU WERE TAKEN FROM ME IN THE MOST BARBARIC WAY, MY DEAREST SON.

BE ASSURED, EVERY ONE OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE WILL PAY, BE THEY ONE MAN OR SEVEN TIMES SEVENTY THOUSAND.

YOUR KILLERS WILL FORFEIT THEIR LIVES, AND THEIR GHOSTS WILL SUFFER NEVERENDING TORMENTS IN THE NEXT LIFE.

BUT THAT ISN'T ENOUGH.

NOT NEARLY ENOUGH.

MY POWERS WILL RAZE THE VERY BARRICADES OF MORTALITY.

I'VE SPOKEN THE THREE WOEFUL UTTERANCES, SHATTERING THE INFERNAL GLASS HEART OF KELDANAN, THAT LIES IN THE EXACT CENTER OF PERDITION, AND TOLLS THE DOOM OF EVERY SOUL.

HARKEN TO MY COMMAND!

RETURN TO ME, MY BELOVED SON!

AUUUGGHHHH!

NO!

NOT NOW!

NOT YET.

NOT WHEN I WAS SO CLOSE.

I NEED TO HOLD ONTO THE POWER FOR JUST A LITTLE LONGER.

A DAY-- OR EVEN AN HOUR.

I MUST COMPLETE THE F--

A GREAT VICTORY.

BUT AT A TERRIBLE COST.

SONGS WILL BE WRITTEN ABOUT THIS BATTLE.

GODS BLESS YOU AND YOUR DRAGONHAWK KNIGHTS, PRINCE TARO.

WE'D NEVER HAVE SURVIVED WITHOUT YOUR TIMELY RESCUE.

YOU MUST STAY WITH US TO CELEBRATE.

AND TO HONOR OUR DEAD.

I DEARLY WISH WE COULD, BATTLE FATHER KARK, BUT WE HAVE TO REEQUIP, REARM OUR LANCES, AND GET BACK INTO THE WAR.

"THERE ARE RAIDS LIKE THIS HAPPENING ALL OVER THE SOUTHLANDS."

"EVERY KINGDOM ALLIED WITH US IS UNDER ASSAULT IN COORDINATED ATTACKS."

ABOVE THE MOUNTAINS TO THE EAST...

AND IN THE CRAGGY WASTELANDS, AMONG THE RUINS OF A LONG DEAD EMPIRE...

IN THE RIVERLANDS...

AND DEEPEST JUNGLES...

DA KATOR DIS.

GA FRAS KA JO IKA DAN JO SOPH UTAN KATAS KAN.

YOU GOT THAT MUCH RIGHT, SAVAGE

UNSEEN DANGERS ABOUND.

KATOR!

KALUDA DET!

YES, YOU SHOULD'VE BEEN MORE ALERT.

NOW IT'S TOO LATE.

THERE YOU GO!

WAKE UP JUST ENOUGH TO REALIZE YOU'RE ABOUT TO DIE.

THAT SUITS ME.

AT THE PALACE OF FIRE...

WELCOME HOME, NOBLE PRINCE OF PRINCES.

YOU ACQUITTED YOURSELVES WELL TODAY, KNIGHTS OF THE REALM.

I'M HONORED TO SHARE YOUR COMPANY.

GOOD EVENING TO YOU, EVER FAITHFUL HURMA.

CAN YOU HAVE THIS REFILLED FOR ME, WHILE I SPEAK TO MY FATHER?

ONE HOUR ONLY!

AND THEN WE FLY AGAIN!

GOOD FIGHTING, ALL. BUT WE AREN'T DONE YET.

REPLENISH YOUR FIRE LANCES.

EAT.

HAVE YOUR WOUNDS TENDED.

AND THEN WE GO OUT AGAIN.

TARO!

GOOD EVENING, SISTER.

WHAT INSPIRES YOU TO LURK OUTSIDE OF OUR PARENTS' ROOMS AT THIS HOUR?

I CAME TO WARN FATHER.

ME TOO.

I NEED TO REPORT RESULTS OF OUR PATROL, BEFORE HEADING OUT AGAIN.

WAIT.

WARN HIM, DID YOU SAY?

WARN HIM OF WHAT?

WHERE'S MOTHER?

MOTHER'S GONE.

SHE SLIPPED OUT ON HER OWN TO JOIN HER TRIBE--TO AID IN THE FIGHTING AGAINST THE INVADERS.

DAMMIT.

SHE'S OUR MOTHER, AND DESERVES OUR EVERY RESPECT.

BUT SOMETIMES THAT WOMAN INFURIATES THE FILIAL DEVOTION RIGHT OUT OF ME.

I FEAR SHE'LL ALWAYS BE MORE SAVAGE WARRIOR THAN GENTEEL QUEEN.

I LEARNED THAT MUCH RECENTLY.

IT'S YET ANOTHER BOTHER I DON'T NEED RIGHT NOW.

NEVERTHELESS, I'LL LOOK FOR HER WHEN WE SET OUT AGAIN.

TELL ME SHE AT LEAST HAD ENOUGH SENSE TO TAKE FOREST GHOST WITH HER.

OF COURSE.

SHE'D NEVER GO ANYWHERE WITHOUT HER PANTHER.

GOOD. THAT SOMEWHAT EASES MY MIND.

AS LONG AS THEY STAY TOGETHER, THERE ISN'T MUCH THAT CAN TROUBLE THEM.

DON'T FRET, TEEGRA. I'LL FIND HER, BUT MOTHER'S MORE THAN CAPABLE OF LOOKING AFTER HERSELF.

ABOUT THIRTY MILES TO THE NORTH...

KALU KAS!

PU?

KAS NUCA SAK KELDA WATH HERGA!

KILL ME?

NOT IN YOUR WILDEST DREAMS!

THINK I DIDN'T SEE YOU UP THERE?

CLUMSY BRUTE.

YOUR ATTEMPT AT STEALTH WAS LIKE A CLANGING BELL TO ME.

DA KORA FRAS?

HERE!

THE CONSEQUENCES OF YOUR FOLLY.

HOWL!

WHAT NEW TREACHERY IS THIS THEN?

I'M HAPPY TO SEE YOU, STRANGER, BUT CONFUSED.

WHERE'D YOU COME FROM?

FAR AWAY.

I WAS TRYING TO FIGHT MY WAY HOME, IN A LAND SUDDENLY OVER-RUN WITH SUBHUMAN SCUM, WHEN I NOTICED YOUR DISTRESS.

I THOUGHT YOU COULD USE SOME HELP.

YOU LOOK FAMILIAR, BOY.

YES, I'M REALLY PAYING OFF A DEBT--

--AND HAPPY TO BE ABLE TO DO IT.

YOU AND YOUR PANTHER SAVED ME FROM A WITCH NOT MORE THAN TEN DAYS AGO.

OH, YES, I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU, NO LONGER TIED DOWN TO A HAG'S SACRIFICIAL ALTER.

IF YOU OWED ME ANYTHING, YOU'VE MORE THAN PAID IT, BOY.

THANK YOU.

NOT BOY. MY NAME IS LARN.

AND YOU'RE MORE THAN WELCOME.

THE ICE IS MOVING AGAIN.

IT DOES THAT, WHENEVER ONE OF THE ROYALS USES HIS POWERS.

OR HERS.

IT'S THE FIRST, MOST ANCIENT LAW: THE ICE AND THE KING ARE ONE.

OR THE QUEEN IN THIS CASE.

THIS TIME QUEEN JULIANNA HAS BEEN UP TO SOMETHING BIG, AND IT'S WAKENED THE ICE THIS TIME LIKE ALMOST NEVER BEFORE.

IT'S FRISKY AT ALL TIMES, BUT LATELY IT'S ALSO MEAN. IF ONE CAN ASCRIBE SENTIENT EMOTIONS TO AN UNLIVING PHENOMENON.

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN. IT SEEMS ALMOST HUNGRY.

HELP!

WE NEED HELP HERE!

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

NOT A THING!

WE FOUND HER LIKE THIS! I SWEAR!

SHE WAS WANDERING SENSELESS THROUGH THE HALLS.

SEND FOR PRINCE NEKRON.

THIS CALAMITY IS ABOVE OUR STATION TO DEAL WITH.

A SHORT TIME LATER...

WHAT HAPPENED?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN MY CHAMBERS?

SHHHHHHHH.

YOU'RE ALL RIGHT NOW, MOTHER.

YOU JUST SUFFERED A...I'M NOT SURE.

A SPELL OF SOME KIND.

AH, YES, I REMEMBER NOW.

AT A CRITICAL POINT OF MY WORKING, THE POWER TRIED TO LEAVE ME, TO TRANSFER TO YOU.

BUT I SUCCESSFULLY REPRESSED IT, AND AM FULLY RECOVERED.

COME WITH ME, MY SON, AND I'LL SHOW YOU SOMETHING MARVELOUS.

WHAT HIDDEN SCHEMES HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO THESE PAST DAYS?

THEY BETTER AMOUNT TO MORE THAN YOUR PLAN TO KILL OFF ENOUGH OF THE FIRE REALM NOBILITY UNTIL I CAN MARRY MY WAY INTO THEIR KINGSHIP.

I MEAN NO DISRESPECT, MOTHER, BUT THAT'S THE SCHEME OF A PETULANT CHILD.

NO CITIZEN OF THE FIRE REALM WILL EVER TAKE ORDERS FROM A SON OF THE ICE LANDS.

BLAH, BLAH, BLAH...

YOU'RE ALWAYS SO DRAMATIC.

HOW YOU DO WHINE AND PRATTLE ON--NOT AT ALL LIKE YOUR BROTHER.

YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT I'VE BEEN DOING?

I'VE BEEN COOKING UP SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR YOUR INAUGURATION PARTY.

A NEWLY DESIGNATED CROWN PRINCE SHOULD HAVE A FEAST, SHOULD HE NOT?

COME IN.

JOIN ME FOR DINNER AND I'LL SHOW YOU EVERY-THING.

HELLO, BROTHER.

DID YOU MISS ME?

NEXT ISSUE: WHAT DOES ONE SAY TO THE BROTHER YOU RECENTLY MURDERED?

DYNAMITE® DISPATCH
DECEMBER 2023

## NEXT ISSUE

Even as she is transferring her powers to Prince Nekron, the grief-maddened sorceress Juliana casts one final spell to resurrect her first-born son, Kaledan - who is about to discover that getting brought back to life isn't as enjoyable as one might think. Meanwhile, having fought off the subhuman raiders, the Queen of Firekeep adds the warrior boy Larn to her expedition - now they just have to make it across a jungle overrun with enemy warriors and their tame monsters!

# CHRISTOPHER PRIEST REWINDS THE CLOCK, CELEBRATES 666 ISSUES, AND CHARGES FORWARD IN THE MOST HISTORIC VAMPIRELLA STORY YET!

**Priest, we must ask you of course what you think of the fun numbering here with *Vampirella* #666. You've been involved in a few big celebratory anniversary issues in the course of your career, like *Conan the Barbarian* #200, the big #1,000 marks for *Detective Comics* and *Marvel Comics*, and we won't think too hard about how a #1,000,000 issue comes to be…**

I think it apropos to give the comic the same number as my age :-)

I don't know, I think the biz has changed a lot over time. A lot of us older fans really enjoyed the issue numbering and felt it important to keep our sets complete. A NUMBER ONE was a huge deal, and milestone numbering was an event to be celebrated. I think all the reboots have diminished this aspect a great deal, with younger generations of fans now not as invested or not invested in quite the same way.

**You first took on the helm of the Vampirella franchise in 2019 for our big 50th anniversary. It all kicked off with an echo of the origins that fans had previously seen for the character, with her as the sole survivor of a tragic plane crash. We hear fans will be seeing that moment again here, maybe even more than once, with a big twist. What is going down this time?**

For *Vampirella*, we'd completed our 50th anniversary volume with our issue #25, and that allowed us to stretch and explore a bit over the course of the pandemic through *Vampirella/Dracula: Unholy,* its bookend *Vampirella/Dracula: Rage*, and the way-too-much-fun *Vampirella Year One.*

But I knew that, presuming Dynamite didn't ship me off to the Old Writers' Home, what I would want to do most was get back to basics. Our 50th Anniversary run began with a fairly simple premise: a single girl trying to make it on her own in the big city. She just happens to be a vampire from outer space with a pushy, vengeful mother and a collection of supernatural enemies out to kill her.

After the heaviness of *Rage*, wherein a vengeful Vampirella becomes consumed by darkness, I wanted to get back to where we started with the wonder, fun, and poignancy of those first issues and Vampirella restored to her whimsical goodness. We've done that… sorta.

There's always a catch. I mean, that's the fun of reading ANY story, any novel or magazine or comic. There's the story you think you know, and then there's the unexpected curve that creates the thrill ride. And that's where we are with issue #666: back home, back where we belong. Sorta.


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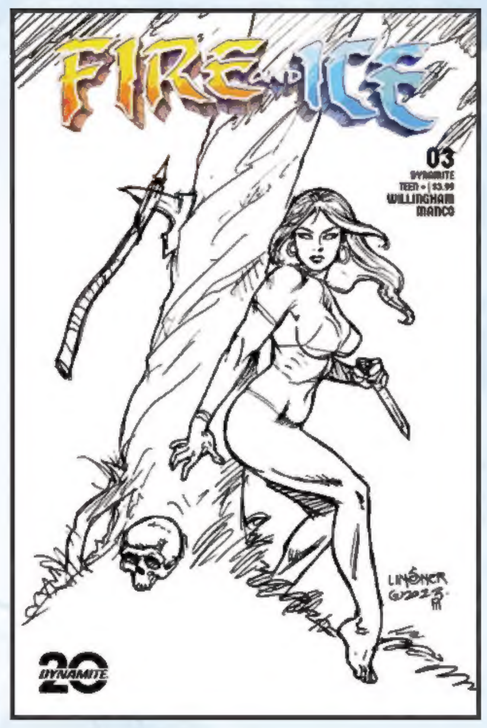


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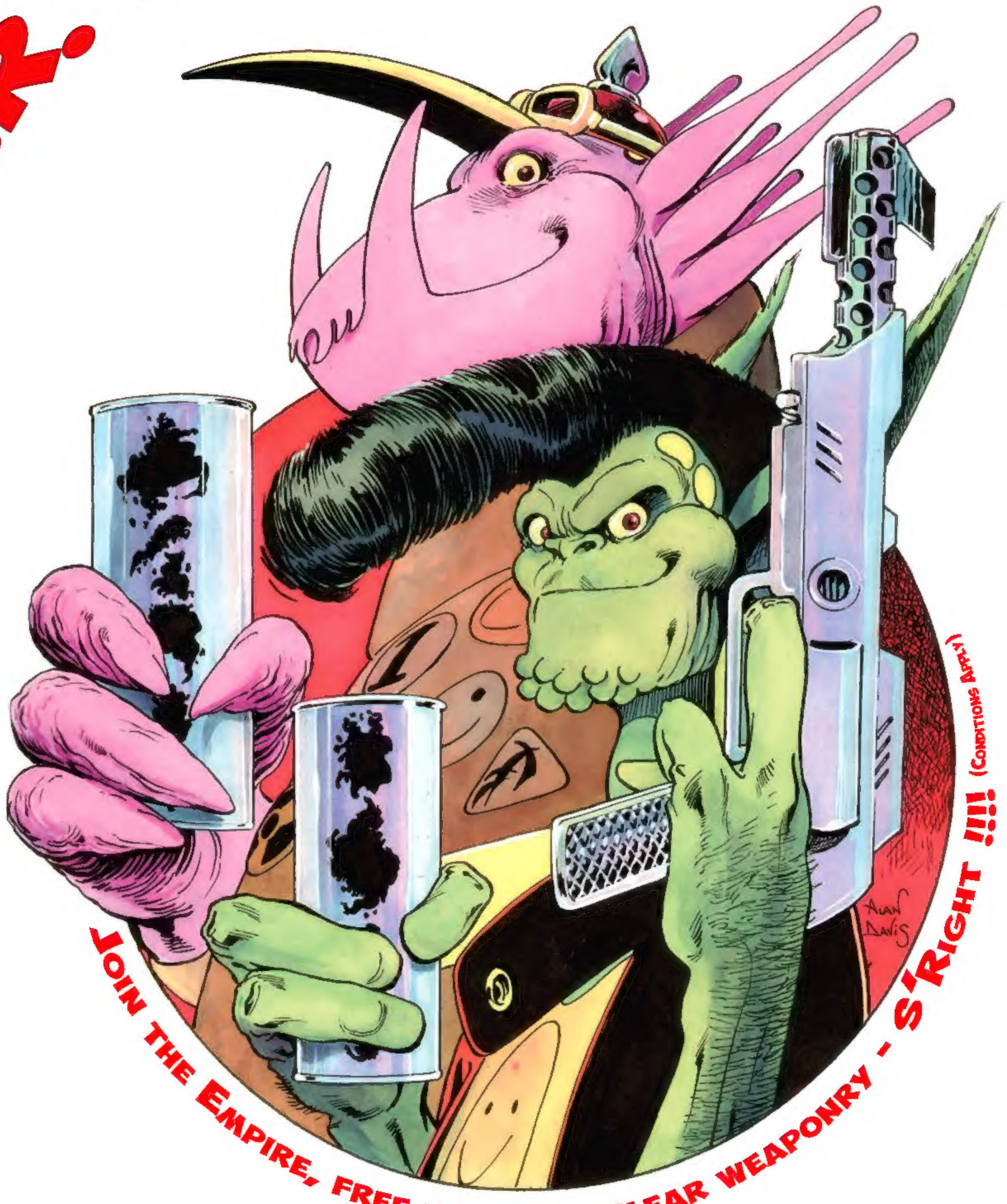


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